

Application No. 10/715,566

IN THE CLAIMS:

This version of the claims replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (currently amended) A method of applying a covering to a board for exterior use, comprising:

providing a flexible elongated strip of covering material having side edges and including a fibrous layer with an integral moldable adhesive layer applied thereto and a release sheet secured over the moldable adhesive layer, wherein the release sheet has a separable positioning guide strip located in a central region between the side edges and extending the length of the strip of covering material;

positioning the elongated strip of covering material on a board with the edges of the covering material aligned with the edges of the board;

progressively removing a length of the positioning guide strip to tack a longitudinal central portion of the elongated strip of covering material in place by adhering the central region and leaving the side edges covered with the release sheet to allow the side edges of the elongated strip to move relative to the board;

removing a length of the remaining release sheet to finally position the material and adhere the entire width of the elongated strip of covering material to the board;

providing a second elongated strip of the covering material;

positioning the second elongated strip of covering material on another board;

progressively removing a length of the positioning guide strip to tack a longitudinal central portion of the elongated strip of covering material in place; and

removing a length of the remaining release sheet to finally position the material and adhere the entire width of the elongated strip of covering material to the other board.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein progressive removal of the guide strip occurs prior to the removal of the length of the remaining release sheet.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein progressive removal of the guide strip occurs intermittently with the removal of a length of the remaining release sheet.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising securing a trim piece to an end of the board with the strip of covering material adhered thereto.

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5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the elongated strip of covering material includes applying the layer of hot melt adhesive to a back surface of the fibrous layer as the moldable adhesive layer.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein applying the moldable adhesive layer includes applying the layer in a thickness of about 5 mils to 17 mils.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein applying the moldable adhesive layer includes applying the layer in a volume of at least about 185 grams per square meter.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein applying the moldable adhesive layer includes applying the layer in a volume of about 355-465 grams per square meter.
9. (canceled)
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein after the portion of the elongated strip of covering material is tacked in place and prior to removing a length of the remaining release sheet to adhere the entire width of the elongated strip of covering material to the board, further including finally positioning the elongated strip of covering material on the board includes by flexing the material and steering the elongated strip of covering material by laterally shifting the material to conform to the shape of the board in the longitudinal direction.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, further providing indicia on the release sheet.
12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein providing indicia includes providing an indication of a direction of pile of the fibrous layer.
13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein providing indicia includes providing measuring marks.
14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the strip of covering material includes providing the release sheet with free edges that extend beyond sides of the

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fibrous layer, and removing the length of the remaining release sheet includes grasping the free edges.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing an elongate strip of covering material includes providing the strip in a roll having a width of about twelve inches or less.

16. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein providing an elongate strip of covering material includes providing the release sheet in three pieces across the width of the strip, including two side pieces and a middle piece that forms the positioning guide strip.